First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti

"Follow Me"

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No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.

May 3, 2015 10:00 am

Fifth Sunday of Easter

An open and affirming community committed to peace and justice

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP & LIFE TOGETHER: We invite you to participate in this community of faith. If you are a visitor for the first time, please fill out the welcome pad being passed around. We invite you to join us for Friendship Time (refreshments and conversation) at the conclusion of worship.

WE WELCOME CHILDREN so that they may come to understand the worship experience. Families are encouraged to talk about the parts of worship so children may understand and participate. During the worship service we have a time for children with the minister on the rug in the center of the worship space followed by Sunday school (September-May).

Hymns are found in the following books:
NCH *(Black, hardcover "New Century Hymnal")*
Sing! *(Black, softcover, "Sing! Prayer and Praise" songbook)*
ES *(Green, softcover "Everflowing Streams" songbook)*

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Invitation

All people are welcome to participate in this community of faith
If you have questions about becoming a member of this church, please speak with the Pastor or any member of the Community.

Prelude Steve McGhee

***Gathering Hymn** **"Shout the name of Christ who lives."** **234 NCH** - Steve McGhee

Welcome Donna Eyster

Guests, please complete a Visitor Card and place in the offering plate so we may have a record of your visit.
We hope you will join us for Friendship Time and refreshments after the service.

Thank you for worshiping with us today!

Please rise in body or spirit as you are able

Announcements Donna Eyster

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Ringing the Bell

***Hymn** **"Many are the light beams"** **163 NCH**

Focusing Prayer (Unison) Donna Eyster

Here in this gathering of worship, I have discovered this praise-life, Lord. Here in your presence Lord, down-and-outers sit at God's table and eat their fill. Everyone is welcome here. Everyone is included in the saying and the singing of the praises to your never ending, all inclusive love. Everyone is reaching out to do your work! Envelop me in this love and help me to be your disciple. Strengthen and encourage me to share your inclusion and love today and each day this week. Amen. – adapted from Psalm 22

Anthem **"**Here I am Lord**"** FCC Choir

LISTENING FOR GOD

New Testament Reading Acts 8:26-40 Donna Eyster

Hymn **"Jesus Loves Me"** **327 NCH**

Children's Time *children are invited to come forward* Carol Hall

Old Testament Reading Deuteronomy 1:16-18 Carol Hall

Reflection **"Return On Investment** Carol Hall

***Hymn** **"De Clores"** **402 NCH**

CONVERSING WITH THE HOLY ONE

Prayers of the People Carol Hall

All are invited to offer a prayer, testimony, praise report or prayer request at this time. Please limit your sharing to one or two sentences and remember confidentiality issues.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (Unison) -- Traditional Version Carol Hall

When we say the Lord's Prayer, please feel free to follow the traditional form or use language that feels comfortable to you, e.g. Mother, Creator, God, Friend, or Realm, Kindom, Wisdom.

Offering this prayer in unison brings us together and the words illustrate our common journey

RESPONDING TO OUR CALLING

Invitation to the Offering (Unison) Donna Eyster

God loves us so much that Jesus was sent to be our greatest teacher. The balm of love was offered for our healing so we might be reconciled to God and to one another. What will we offer in thanksgiving for so great a gift? Amen.

Offertory Steve McGhee

***Doxology** **"Take My Gifts"** **562 NCH**

Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
Gave me light and food and shelter, Gave me life and set me free,
Now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away,
Now the bread of love is rising, Loaves of love to multiply!

Prayer of Dedication** ***(Unison) Donna Eyster

We give, gracious God, because we are grateful. Your love has sustained us through many trials and temptations. We are thankful for those who have guided our attempts to understand the scriptures. We give in order to extend to others the blessing we have received and to continue the ministry we need as we seek to abide together in your love. Amen.

COMMUNING WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

***Hymn of Blessing** **"Come, Gather in This Special Place"** **335 NCH**

Communion Service Carol Hall

Communion will be served by intinction in our chairs.
All are Welcome at the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving Carol Hall

DEPARTING WITH PRAISE

***Hymn of Departure** **"God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale"** **32 NCH**

***Benediction** Carol Hall

One: Live for God every moment of every day.
Take time to bow down in gratitude for God's love.

Many: **We seek to live as people who know God.**
Because we are loved, we dare to love others.

One: Do not be afraid to share the love and understanding of your faith
When asked step forward for the Holy Spirit will fill you with the right words and actions

Many: **We will turn to the perfect love that casts out fear.**
We will tell of that love and security to future generations.

One: You have been equipped and empowered by love.
God is filing your life with purpose and energy.

Many: **We love because God first loves us.**
We will teach as Philip did, those who ask for more information will be guided.
We will join on this pilgrimage and enjoy the journey,
Baptized and baptizing in the love of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Postlude Steve McGhee

(Please be seated for the Postlude)

Passing the Peace *Share a greeting with your neighbor as we transition to our snack.*

First Congregational United Church of Christ
PO Box 980413
218 North Adams Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198
734-482-6980
website: ***www.ypsiucc.com***

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God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Our Volunteers	Today: May 3rd	Next Sunday: May 10th
Usher	Lyle Molter	Marty Kleino
Preaching	Carol Hall	Carol Hall
Worship Leader	Donna Eyster	Ivan Harner
Worship Set-up	Glenda Horvath	Margaret Harner
Acolyte	Kelsie/Desayre	Hunter Turner
Friendship Time	Patty Sherwood	Anne Marie N-T
Sunday School	Melanie Harner	Patty Sherwood

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH OUTDOOR CLEAN-UP: We will be doing outdoor clean-up on May 9th at 10:00 am till ???. Donna Eyster is heading the event, so contact her for more information.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING: Our next Council meeting will be held May 4th at 4:30 pm. All are welcome.

MICHIGAN OPEN & AFFIRMING COALITION: We will be meeting May 9th at 10:00 am till 12:00 at Bethlehem UCC in Ann Arbor. If interested contact Wayne Burling at 734-377-0696.

CHOIR REHEARSALS: **No Choir rehearsal on May 5th** . Choir rehearsals are held on Tuesday at 6:30 PM Come, join the fun and try it out. We have a great time. Don't need to read music or have trained voice.

PASTORAL CARE EMERGENCIES: If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Glenda Horvath, 734-904-0420

CONGREGATIONAL CARE: Kindly remember in your prayers our members and friends who are sick and/or shut-in. Send a card or note to lift their spirits and yours as well.

Fran Pebbles' address: *American Homes Carpenter, 3470 Carpenter Rd., Apt 332, Ypsilanti, MI 48197. Phone: 734-975-0987*

Sally Dusbiber's *address'*: *Silver Maples of Chelsea, Room 1211, 100 Silver Maples Dr., Chelsea, MI 48118. Sally's direct phone line is 734-433-2396 and the Silver Maples line is 734-475-4111, x217.*

IMMIGRATION MINISTRY (WICIR): For information about what's happening with Immigrant Rights and ***Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights*,** or if you are interested in learning ways to help, please contact Margaret Harner at 734-483-3464 or through their Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/WICIR .

MICHIGAN OPEN & AFFIRMING COALITION: For information about what's happening with **Michigan Open and Affirming Coalition,** or if you are interested in joining us, please contact Wayne Burling at 734-377-0696. More information can be found on their website http://www.mi-ona.org or on facebook at https://www.facebook.com/groups/onami/

WASHTENAW REGIONAL ORGANIZING COALITION: "First Congregational is a co-founding institution of the new local "organization of organizations" **WeROC (Washtenaw Regional Organizing Coalition).** In many ways, WeROC is a larger illustration of the values and mission we try to live out at First Congregational. The diverse faith congregations and labor and community organizations that make up WeROC are, at our core, focused on intentionally reweaving the frayed fabric of community -- at a time when forces are at work every day to keep us fragmented, suspicious of each other, feeling isolated and on our own. We are showing by example that people from many backgrounds and perspectives can, even today, come together in powerful ways around our common values and *actually change* unjust public policies. WeROC is a part of the S.E. Michigan organization MOSES and the national Gamaliel Foundation.
See Tad Wysor (tadwysor@gmail.com, 734 883 3225) for more on how First Congregational is connecting with current WeROC issues and actions.

OUR WEBSITE: http://www.ypsiucc.org Let Wayne know if you have any additional items to be added. He could use lots more pictures. Also check out and like our Facebook page. https://www.facebook.com/pages/First-Congregational-United-Church-of-Christ-Ypsilanti/115695119913 .

KROGER FUNDRAISER: **HAVE YOU *RE-REGISTERED* WITH KROGER!!** Everybody that shops at Kroger and has a shopper's card ***MUST*** register. ***Last Year's registration expires May 1st*** and you are not getting credit for you purchases until you re-register for the current year.

Go to www.kroger.com and click "**REGISTER**". Follow prompts to register your frequent shopper card number. Then link to the **Community Rewards** site and register with our church. Our number is **83263**, or you can find our name in drop down list. Any questions contact Barbara Garland, bargarland@yahoo.com, 734-662-5803.